

Loyola in the semifinals, their second-best hitting percentage on the year.

Sophomore libero Michael Brinkley had 290 digs this season which was third on UCI's single-season digs list. Kevin Tillie and Michael Brinkley were named first team All-Americans, while Collin Mehring was a second team All-American selection. Tillie and Brinkley were also named to the All-MPSF first team, while Mehring and Scott Kevorken were named to the second team.

UCI ended the season by winning the UCSB Invitational where Collin Mehring was named MVP. Jeremy Dejno was named AVCA National Player of the Week on Jan. 8, while Klye Russell garnered the award on April 9.

Congratulations to head coach, David Kniffin, who is just the second coach in the 44-year history of NCAA men's volleyball to coach a team to the NCAA Championship in his first season, and the men's volleyball team of UCI, for winning the 2013 NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. I am proud to recognize the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping UCI win the national title.

It is an honor to represent University of California, Irvine, under the leadership of Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., as it continues to establish itself as a world-class research university, and as one of the top universities in the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC GOLDBERG AND  
ERIKA GRAY FOR THE SELEC-  
TION TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED  
STATES

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Goldberg and Erika Gray for their achievement in being selected for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. The National Youth Orchestra, spearheaded by Carnegie Hall, showcases America's finest young musicians and reinvests interest in youth musicianship at home and abroad. This achievement is the culmination of Eric and Erika's hard work, dedication, and training to hone their talent and develop their skills as musicians.

The National Youth Orchestra provides Eric and Erika the opportunity to build upon their experiences in studying music at the Percussion Scholarship Group of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and New Trier High School, respectively. They will join an elite group of young musicians from across this country on an international tour that highlights the vast musical talent that exists in the United States. Their whirlwind tour will include performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; Bolshoi Hall of the Moscow Conservatory in Moscow, Russia; the Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia; and the Royal Albert Hall in London, England.

I am so proud that these talented young people will represent my congressional district, Illinois, and the United States as cultural ambassadors during their time with the National Youth Orchestra. I wish Eric, Erika, and other

members of the National Youth Orchestra the best of luck on their tour and in their future musical endeavors.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the athletes, volunteers and fans of Special Olympics Minnesota in honor of their 40th anniversary. This weekend, thousands of people will be gathering in Stillwater, Minnesota to celebrate this momentous milestone with a variety of activities, including athletic competitions and live music.

Founded just five years after Special Olympics was established nationally, thousands upon thousands of Minnesota athletes with intellectual or physical disabilities have had the opportunity to compete in 17 Olympic style sports year round, including alpine skiing, volleyball, golf, snowboarding and tennis. The Special Olympics message is simple and profound: "Through sports, our athletes are seeing themselves for their abilities, not disabilities. Their world is opened with acceptance and understanding. They become confident and empowered by their accomplishments." Rather than focusing on what they can't do, Special Olympics Minnesota focuses on what the individual can do.

Respect, accomplishment, choice, quality, partnership and integrity are the six core values represented by Special Olympics Minnesota. These values contribute to an understanding of the whole person and the whole athlete.

This year, members of our law enforcement in Minnesota are participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which has taken place annually across the country since it was founded in 1981 by Police Chief Richard LaMunyon, of Wichita, Kansas. In 2012, more than 1,200 law enforcement officers throughout the State of Minnesota participated in this special torch run for Special Olympics Minnesota. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of the officers, \$3 million was successfully raised for Special Olympics Minnesota in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the athletes, volunteers, donors and staff of Special Olympics Minnesota, I proudly submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of their 40th anniversary as an organization, and I commend all those joining in celebration this weekend in Stillwater, Minnesota.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Chair, today, as the House of Representatives debates the five-year Farm Bill, I am hopeful that my colleagues can come together on issues that touch all Americans. This bill makes great strides for energy programs, the forestry industry, the organic sector, and rural areas.

I have always supported family farmers. They need protection from the vagaries of pestilence, drought, flooding, and the like. A five-year Farm Bill will offer them the certainty they need to make planting decisions.

I do not believe this Farm Bill is perfect, but I also do not think that perfection should be the enemy of the good.

In the Agriculture Committee last month, we spent more than ten hours debating amendments. That is how the legislative process should function. After it was all said and done, Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON felt this was the best product they could get through the House. I commend them for their hard work in pulling together a bipartisan compromise.

I will vote for passage of this bill because I have confidence that the conference committee can merge the House and Senate bills in a way that provides for family farmers without gutting the SNAP program.

Again, I will not claim that this bill is ideal—but we need to respect the work of our colleagues and advance this process.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, today I rise to oppose the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act plan to cut SNAP funding by \$20.5 billion over the next ten years.

The need for food assistance has increased dramatically during our nation's economic slump. Texas's rate for food insecurity is 27.6%—more than one in four Texas children is food insecure.

The impacts to Texas would be devastating, including 171,000 immediately off of SNAP and the elimination of almost 500 million meals from hungry Texans. In Harris County alone, more than 27,000 children, seniors, and their families would lose SNAP benefits; more than 76 million meals would be eliminated; and the Harris County economy would lose almost \$175M in lost food retail dollars.

Meeting the need for food assistance is especially critical for our most vulnerable citizens—pregnant and nursing women, infants, children, and seniors for whom the consequences of hunger and poor nutrition are